

PATENT APPLICATION OF:

**EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 929182366 US**

**Date: October 9, 2002**

Group Art Unit: 3641

Attention: Office of Petitions  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box DAC  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) within three months of the filing date of the patent application, (b) within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 of the international application, or (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

  X   **after** (a), (b), or (c) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, and includes:

\_\_\_\_\_ the Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (see "Certification" below) or

  X   the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

\_\_\_\_\_ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, and includes the Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (see "Certification" below), and the Fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

#### Enclosures

  X   A copy of each reference listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and not previously provided to or by the PTO.

X   A copy of the foreign search report for Application No. 01120330.4 (EP 1 186 852 A1), which corresponds to the above application is enclosed herewith.

       The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at the time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (check one)		
U.S. Applications	U.S. Filing Date	Patented	Pending	Allowed

#### Other Applications

       The Examiner's attention is directed to the following U.S. patent application(s):

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (check one)		
U.S. Applications	U.S. Filing Date	Patented	Pending	Abandoned

#### Certification

       The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application or, to the knowledge of the attorney signing after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

**Fees**

\_\_\_\_\_ No fee is owed by the applicant(s).

  X   The **IDS Fee of \$180.00** under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.

**Method Of Payment of Fees**

  X   Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00.

\_\_\_\_\_ Charge Deposition Account No. 13-0017 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose).

**Authorization to Charge Additional Fees**

  X   If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0017. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose).

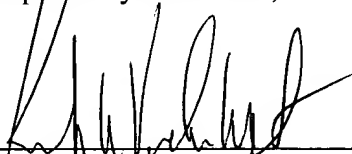
**Instructions As To Overpayment**

  X   Credit Account No. 13-0017.

\_\_\_\_\_ Refund

Date: October 9, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk A. Vander Leest  
Reg. No. 34,036

Form PTO-1449  
(Rev. 8-83)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTORNEY DOCKET  
NO.

SERIAL NO.

14073US01

09/656,325

APPLICANT:

Nelson et al.

FILING DATE

GROUP  
ART UNIT:

9/6/00

3641

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A	3,421,400	1/14/69	Snyder			
	B	4,674,047	6/16/87	Tyler et al.			
	C	5,036,465	7/30/91	Ackerman, Jr. et al.			
	D	5,117,756	6/2/92	Goffin, II			
	E	5,520,115	5/28/96	Braun			
	F						
	G						
	H						
	I						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	J	WO 01/42732 A1	6/14/01	PCT				
	K	WO 01/67031 A1	9/13/01	PCT				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AA	
BB	
CC	
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	